

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FONSEC COMMENTS ON MPLA DELEGATION VISIT TO MEXICO

REF: A. MEXICO 878 (NOTAL) B. STATE 11936 (AND PREVIOUS)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DURING A PRESS INTERVIEW JAN 21, MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES AFFIRMED THAT THE GOM IS AT PRESENT "STUDYING" THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA "WITH GREAT INTEREST." HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD "LIMITED" HIMSELF TO LISTENING TO THE MPLA DELEGATION AND PROMISED THEM THAT HE WOULD INFORM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF THEIR VIEWS. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA, GARCIA ROBLES COMMENTED: "THE SITUATION IS VERY COMPLICATED. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF CHRONOLOGY, I BELIEVE THAT THE INVASION WAS MORE FROM SOUTH AFRICA. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE, IN A CLEAR AND DEFINITIVE MANNER, BETWEEN AN INVASION ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT INVOLVES A COUNTRY SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, AND ON THE OTHER HAND THE SENDING OF TROOPS ON THE PETITION OR APPLICATION OF ONE OF THE GROUPS IN THE CONFLICT. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO THE CUBAN TROOPS IN

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THE ANGOLAN SITUATION, THAT THE SECOND HYPOTHESIS, WHICH

I HAVE REFERRED TO, APPLIES. AGOSTINO NETO, LEADER OF THE MPLA, HAS EXPRESSLY DECLARED THESE TROOPS ARE INDEED THERE AT HIS REQUEST."

2. PRIOR TO DEPARTING MEXICO FOR CUBA JAN 21, HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO, HEAD OF THE MPLA DELEGATION, ALSO GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE CHARGED THAT THE US IS INTERVENING IN ANGOLA. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT ANGOLA WILL NOT BECOME "ANOTHER VIETNAM" BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS WILL NOT SUPPORT PRESIDENT FOR, WHO ACCORDING TO CARVALHO HAS DECIDED TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN ANGOLA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LOU AND COMMENT: GARCIA ROBLES APPARENTLY HAS ACCEPTED AND EVEN GIVEN A MEASURE OF APPROVAL TO THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AS A MEANS OF OFF-SETTING SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WHICH ALLEGEDLY CAME FIRST. IF APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY WHICH HAS ALREADY MADE SEVERAL DEMARCHES TO GOM USING COPIOUS DATA ON EXTENSIVE CUBAN AND SOVIET EFFORTS IN ANGOLA (REF B), IS PREPARED TO MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE REFUTING THIS RATIONALE FOR CUBAN INTERVENTION. FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE REQUEST INFORMATION ON THE CHRONOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS (NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND QUANTITIES OF ARMAMENTS) OF THE CUBAN, SOVIET, AND SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORTS IN ANGOLA. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THESE NATIONAL EFFORTS MAY BE SAID TO BE AT THE INVITATION OF ONE OF THE ANGOLAN BELIGERENTS. THOMPSON

NOTE BY OC/T: RAISED TO EXDIS PER S/S-O, MACFARLANE, 1/23/76.

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